

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MINIMUM WAGE

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage my colleagues to read the following article the Wall Street Journal which was written by a woman who owns a small business in the Sixth district of Georgia. Although the President may have good intentions when he suggests that raising the minimum wage would help working Americans, I believe that Ms. Cane points out that another minimum wage increase would actually hurt the people it is trying to help which include teenagers, working mothers, and single parents.

[From the Wall Street Journal, March 13, 1998]

MINIMUM WAGE: WHO PAYS?

(By Harriet F. Cane)

President Clinton and his allies in Congress are calling for another increase in the minimum wage. But they should consider the experience of small-business owners like me, who struggled through the last increase. I own and manage a small cafe. I have had as many as 16 employees; I now have nine. Most of them are teenagers; the rest, working mothers.

Before the last increase I wrote letters to the president and my congressmen. I explained that the mandated wage increase was only the tip of the iceberg. To maintain the wage increment for senior employees, I would have to raise their wages above the new minimum. My monthly payroll would increase by \$570—and that didn't include the payroll taxes for Social Security, Medicare, unemployment insurance and workman's compensation. For my efforts I received nicely worded form letters about the benefits of the wage increase.

When the increase passed, I had to reduce staffing hours. Result: I am working harder to earn my money. I already worked six days a week, every week. The staffing cutbacks increased my workload by 15 hours a week. I also cut back on outside services, so I am now mopping my own floors two weeks each month and doing all my own accounting, the weekly laundry and as many of the repairs as I can.

When Mr. Clinton signed the wage increase into law, he had by his side a minimum-wage worker who stated that now she did not have to choose between paying her electric bill or her gas bill. The same evening, our local news interviewed a woman who said she would now be able to buy her daughter a compact disk player for graduation. I do not begrudge either of these women their good fortune. But business owners work hard too, and we also have to make tough choices. I suffer from several chronic illnesses, and the wage increase has forced me to cut back on medical care.

Money for minimum wage increases has to come from somewhere. Mr. Clinton's proposed increase would raise my annual payroll by \$7,200, forcing me to close my doors. To the politicians I say this: You have the power to destroy the American Dream for

thousands of small business owners. If you pass another increase in the minimum wage, you can tell the teenagers and working mothers I employ why they no longer have jobs. Then try asking for their votes.

IN HONOR OF SHAUN HUGHES ON HIS ATTAINMENT OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Shaun Hughes of Cleveland, Ohio, who will be honored April 4, 1998 for his attainment of Eagle Scout.

The attainment of Eagle Scout is a high and rare honor requiring years of dedication to self-improvement, hard work and the community. Each Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges, twelve of which are required, including badges in: lifesaving, first aid; citizenship in the community, citizenship in the nation; citizenship in the world, personal management of time and money, family life, environmental science, and camping.

In addition to acquiring and proving proficiency in those and other skills, an Eagle Scout must hold leadership positions within the troop where he learns to earn the respect and hear the criticism of those he leads.

The Eagle Scout must live by the Scouting Law, which holds that he must be trustworthy, loyal, brave, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, clean, and reverent.

And the Eagle Scout must complete an Eagle Project, which he must plan, finance and evaluate on his own. It is no wonder that only two percent of all boys entering scouting achieve this rank.

My fellow colleagues, let us recognize and congratulate Shaun for his achievement.

QUAKER SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, anyone who visits my office can't help but notice the display of fire helmets that dominates my reception area. The main reason for this is the fact that I learned firsthand the true value of Fire Companies. While serving as Queensbury Town Supervisor, and a New York State Legislator, I had the privilege of being an active member of the Queensbury Central Volunteer Fire Company. It was this experience that gave me a tremendous respect for those who provide fire protection in our rural areas.

In a largely rural area like the 22nd District of New York, fire protection is often solely in

the hands of volunteer companies. In New York State, as elsewhere, they save countless lives and billions of dollars worth of property. That is why the efforts of people like the fire fighters in the Quaker Springs Fire Department is so very critical.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been partial to the charm and character of small towns and small town people. The town of Saratoga is certainly no exception. The traits which make me most fond of such communities are the undeniable camaraderie which exists among neighbors and their strong civic pride. Looking out for one another and the needs of the community make places like the Quaker Springs Fire District great places to live. This concept of community service and pride is exemplified by the devoted service of the members of their volunteer fire department. For 50 years now, this organization has provided critical services for its neighbors on a volunteer basis.

Mr. Speaker, it is all too rare that you see fellow citizens put themselves in harm's way for the sake of another. For the members of the Quaker Springs Fire Department, however, this is a day to day occurrence. Our young people would do well to emulate the selfless service of these noble individuals. On April 19, 1998 the fire company will be holding a ceremony to commemorate this milestone. This will provide the ideal opportunity for the residents of the area to extend their gratitude to this organization and its members, both past and present.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been one to judge people by how much they give back to their community. By that measure, the members of the Quaker Springs Fire Department are truly great Americans. I am extremely proud of this organization because it typifies the spirit of volunteerism which has been a central part of American life. To that end, it is with a sense of pride, Mr. Speaker, that I ask all members of the House to join me in paying tribute to the Quaker Springs Fire Department on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOROUGH OF TOTOWA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the truly momentous occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Borough of Totowa in Passaic County, New Jersey.

The incorporation of Totowa in 1898 as a municipality in Passaic County, New Jersey, defined the boundaries that included the 3.7 square miles of mountain, meadows, rivers, and glens that are known today as Totowa Borough.

The original inhabitants of Totowa were the Minsi tribe of the Lenni-Lenape people.

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